Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, RQ, US, CI

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO

RICO: CHILE

REF: A) STATE 203061; B) USUN 2728

1. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST REPORTED REF B, ACTING POLITICAL SECTION HEAD AND MISSOFF CALLED ON CHILEAN CHARGE CANALES ON AUGUST 29 TO DISCUSS C-24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO. WE REVIEWED RECENT ELECTIONS IN PUERTO RICO, C-24 DEVELOP-MENTS AND CURRENT ATTITUDES OF C-24 MEMBERS, IN RESPONSE TO CANALES' REQUEST, AND DISCUSSED US VIEWS ON C-24 CON-SIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO IN DETAIL PER REF A. CANALES SAID THAT THE QUESTION IS CLEAR AND THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO FEAR ANY INTERFERENCE BY THE GOC IN THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO TO DECIDE WHAT RELATIONSHIP THEY WANT WITH THE US OR IN US/PUERTO RICAN TIES. CANALES NOTED THAT THIS GOC DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED "WITH GREAT INDEPENDENCE" AND WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME EVEN IF WE HAD NOT MADE ANY DEMARCHE ON THE QUESTION. HE NOTED THAT THE GOC DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN BONA FIDE LIBER-ATION MOVEMENTS, SUCH AS THOSE RECOGNIZED BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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UNITED NATIONS, AND "POLITICAL" MOVEMENTS INSPIRED BY MARXIST IDEOLOGY AND ENJOYING CUBAN SUPPORT AS IN THE CASE OF THE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT. CANALES ALSO NOTED THAT THE GOC HAS SPECIFIC DIFFICULTIES WITH PARAGRAPH 3 (CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF THE FIVE "NATIONALIST POLITICAL PRISONERS") AND THAT THE GOC MAKES A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN "COMMON CRIMES"

AND "POLITICAL CRIMES."

2. COMMENT: CANALES GAVE EVERY INDICATION OF CHILEAN SUPPORT WHILE REPEATEDLY AVOIDING AN EXPLICIT COMMENT ON HOW THE GOC WILL VOTE ON THE ISSUE. THE REQUEST FOR A MEETING WITH CANALES WAS ANOTHER ELEMENT OF COYNESS IN THE GOC'S RESPONSE TO OUR DEMARCHE ON THE ISSUE. CANALES ALSO TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OCCASION TO GENTLY BELABOR US ABOUT LACK OF UNDERSTANDING FOR CHILE'S PROBLEMS WITH "COMMON CRIMINALS" WHO PRESENT THEMSELVES AS "POLITICAL PRISONERS."

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